GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3162
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour Scheme-2016
Pal Shri Jagdambika;Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the salient features of the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour Scheme - 2016;
(b)the quantum of financial assistance available and the timeline for final disbursement of cash to be granted to the rescued bonded labourer along with the budgetary allocation made under the scheme for the current financial year;
(c)whether a release certificate is required to be issued immediately after the rescue of the bonded labourer to enable his/her to avail non-cash benefits and if so, the details thereof;
(d)whether a release certificate will be provided if bonded labourer is found to be present but no conviction takes place and if so, the details thereof along with the manner in which the Government proposes to deal with cases involving international victim or refugees;
(e)whether the scheme provides for a choice of place of rehabilitation to the rescued bonded labourers in cases where the place of rescue is not the same as their source State and if so, the details thereof; and
(f)whether the child bonded labourer working in non-hazardous industries are entitled for the release certificate under the scheme and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (f): Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Under the Act, it is the responsibility of State governments to identify, release and rehabilitate the bonded labour.

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The Act affords protection to the freed bonded labourers from eviction from their homestead. District Administration is mandated to restore the bonded labourer to the possession of such homestead or other residential premises as early as practicable. The Act also provides for the economic and social rehabilitation of the freed bonded labourers.

In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour was in operation since May, 1978. The Government has revamped the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers with effect from 17th May, 2016. The revamped scheme is known as the 'Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers, 2016'.
The salient features of the Scheme are as under:
(1) The revised scheme is a Central Sector Scheme. The State Government is not required to pay any matching contribution for the purpose of cash rehabilitation assistance.
(2) Financial assistance has been increased from Rs. 20,000/- to one lakh per adult male beneficiary, Rs. 2 lakh for special category beneficiaries such as children including orphans or those rescued from organized & forced begging rings or other forms of forced child labour, and women and Rs. 3 lakh in cases of bonded or forced labour involving extreme cases of deprivation or marginalization such as trans-genders, or woman or children rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation such as brothels, massage parlours, placement agencies etc., or trafficking, or in cases of differently abled persons, or in situations where the District Magistrate deems fit.
(3) The amount of assistance for survey of bonded labourers is Rs. 4.50 lakh per district.
(4) The release of rehabilitation assistance has been linked with conviction of the accused. In cases where the trial has not been concluded, but the District Administration has arrived at a prima facie finding and proof of bondage, then the proposal for cash assistance shall not be stopped for want of details of conviction. However, final disbursement of cash assistance and non-cash assistance shall be made upon proof of bondage and other legal consequences as per judicial process.
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(5) Scheme provides for creation of a Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund at District level by each State with a permanent corpus of at least Rs. 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate for extending immediate help to the released bonded labourers.
(6) The fund is released by the Ministry under the Scheme to the District National Child Labour Project Society and the District Project Society in turn releases the fund to the implementing agencies including the district administration.
(7) Special care is made available by the State for addressing the needs of the disabled persons, female freed bonded labourers and

bonded child labour by providing safe and secure environment for the capacity building of child bonded labourers, facilities for ensuring their proper education, short stay home till education upto class 12th, skill development, marriage assistance etc.
(8) The benefits prescribed above shall be, in addition to, other cash or non-cash benefits which a beneficiary under this scheme is entitled to, by or under any other scheme or law applicable for the time being in force. Further, the above benefits would be additionality to other land and housing elements etc. as mentioned below:
â€¢ Allotment of house-site and agricultural land.
â€¢ Land development.
â€¢ Provision of low cost dwelling units.
â€¢ Animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, piggery etc.
â€¢ Wage employment, enforcement of minimum wages etc.
â€¢ Collection and processing of minor forest products.
â€¢ Supply of essential commodities under targeted public distribution system.
â€¢ Education for children.

The budget allocation available under the Scheme for the current financial year is Rs. three crore. Every bonded labour including child bonded labour in the country is covered under the Scheme. In case of migrant bonded labourers, it is responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, where the bonded labour have been identified, to make arrangements for their repatriation to their native place, if they so desire.
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